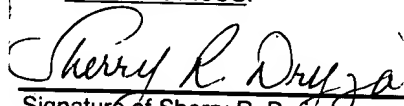


## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The identification of transactional boundaries among the messages sent and received within a transactional message system is disclosed. In one embodiment, a system includes a first computer and a second computer. The first computer is designed to set transactional boundaries among messages. The second computer is designed to determine the transactional boundaries thereamong – specifically such that it can determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a particular transaction has been received. In one embodiment, transactional boundaries are set among messages by tagging the first message of a transaction with a first-message identifier, and the last message with a last-message identifier. All the messages of the transaction can also be tagged with an identifier particular to the transaction.

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 in an envelope addressed to The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on Feb 8, 2000, by Sherry R. Dryja, and having "express mail" mailing label no. EJ243665140US.

  
Signature of Sherry R. Dryja